



## Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

### Wildlife Division – Region 2



#### *Brule/Buffalo Counties*

*Diana Schroeder*



#### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

The walleye bite has slowed down recently in the Chamberlain area. Fishermen have been catching smaller walleyes 14-16 inches in the Chamberlain area. The walleye bite has slowed down at Ft. Thompson as well. Lake Sharpe near Iron Nation has been the place to go for catching walleyes lately. The minimum length restriction is 15 inches with one walleye over 20 inches. The daily possession limit is 4 walleyes. The fish cleaning stations are open in the Chamberlain area and Ft. Thompson. The area between the Interstate Bridge and Railroad Bridge is open to fishing from a boat until December.

Be sure to double check your boat safety equipment (sufficient life jackets for everyone on board, fire extinguisher, and a throwable device) and boat registration before hitting the water.



#### **Hunting Report:**

The 2014 Hunting and Trapping Handbooks are now available!

The September Canada Goose season opened September 1<sup>st</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. Daily limit 15 doves and a possession limit of 45 doves. Be sure to check the boundaries of the open areas in Brule and Buffalo Counties. The boundary includes SD Hwy 34, east of Lees Blvd., southeast to SD Hwy 34, east 7 miles to 350<sup>th</sup> Ave., south to I-90 on 350<sup>th</sup> Ave., south and east on SD Hwy 50 to Geddes. An annual small game or combination license, state migratory bird certification, and federal waterfowl stamp are required for hunting this season. Canada Geese have been reported in the Southeast portion of Brule County near Torey Lake.

Duck season in the Low Plains zone opens September 27<sup>th</sup> east of Hwy 50. The High Plain Zone opens October 11<sup>th</sup> which includes west of Hwy 50. There has not been many ducks migrating through the area yet.

Dove season opened September 1<sup>st</sup> until November 9<sup>th</sup>. Daily limit 15; possession limit 45. Dove shooting hours is one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. A person may not hunt mourning doves on or within 50 yards of a public road. A person may not shoot a mourning dove unless the bird is flying. A person may not hunt with a shotgun capable of holding more than 3 shells. A small game license and migratory bird certification is required. The doves are starting to leave the area due to colder weather.

Prairie chicken and grouse season opens September 20<sup>th</sup>. Landowners have reported seeing increased grouse numbers in the Chamberlain area this year.

Pheasant brood routes numbers have increased 76% more than last year state-wide. The Chamberlain area had a 124% increase pheasants per mile compared to last year. The pheasant season opens October 18<sup>th</sup>. The resident-only pheasant season opens October 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.

Youth/Mentor deer season opened September 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **Campbell County**

*Doug DeLaRoi*



**Fishing Report:** *See Missouri River report below*

Small lakes have had very little use with no reports.



### **Hunting Report:**

Good numbers of doves and geese in the area.

## **Corson/Dewey Counties**

*Shawn Madison:*



### **Fishing Report:**

**Pudwell Dam:** Good fish populations including several year classes of walleye, largemouth bass, crappie, and perch. Fishing activity has been low.

**Morristown East:** No activity but stocking efforts past two years has been successful for largemouth and crappies. Fish size is small. Some northern pike.

**Morristown West:** No activity. perch stockings have been successful ranging from 8-10 inches.

**Trail City Dam:** Little to no activity and a lot of small northern pike showed up in surveys.

**Little Moreau #1:** Activity low but casting lures are good for pike and bass. Some large crappies and bluegill.

**Little Moreau #2:** Catching nice size rainbow trout on lures and corn with salmon eggs. Stocked 1200 Rainbow trout in the beginning of June 2014.

**Isabel Lake:** Some activity. Walleyes being caught using trolling crank baits and spinners. Largemouth bass have been biting. Nice population of bluegill, some large being caught. Fish from the new fishing dock.

**Eagle Butte Dam:** Little activity. Year classes of bluegill look very good ranging from 6-8 inches. Bass numbers are very good as well as perch



### **Hunting Report:**

Dove season opened on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Lots of doves in area with reports of good success. Hunt harvested fields close to water and cover. Unit 1 Canada Goose opened on September 1<sup>st</sup> as well. Lots of local geese in the area. Hunters should have plenty of luck. Do your scouting and don't forget to ask permission. Grouse opens this weekend, hatch was fair but numbers are still low.

## **Charles Mix/Douglas Counties**

*Jeff Martin*



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

The bite has yet to turn on. Cooler weather should have it fast approaching though. I would expect by October 1<sup>st</sup> they should be catching fish.



### **Hunting Report:**

Cooler weather has pushed quite a few doves out of the area. Goose season is in full swing. Scouting is the key for a good goose hunt. Find a harvested field where birds are feeding and obtain landowner permission to hunt. Remember to get a plug in your gun and purchase your federal duck stamp.

## **Gregory County**

*Hans Walleser*



### **Fishing Report:**

Common Snipe season opened September 1.  
Daily limit of 5, possession of 15.

Daily limit for walleye is 4, possession limit is 8. **Minimum size limit of 15 inches.** You may **only keep 1 fish over 20 inches.** Only 2 fishing poles are allowed per person. Do not fish with more than 2! You must be able to see your poles/lines for them to be considered attended. Don't leave your lines in the water if you can't see them. Catfish are biting below Fort Thompson and Fort Randall Dams.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to Conservation Officer Hans Walleser at 605-775-2475 or PO Box 433 Burke, SD 57523. Have fun. Be safe.



### **Hunting Report:**

Archery antelope season is open.

Lyman, Todd, Tripp, and Gregory Counties are closed to antelope harvest.

Dove season opens September 1.

Daily limit is 15. Possession limit is 45.

You may not hunt on or within 50 yards of a public road

You may not shoot at a dove not flying

You may not hunt doves with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells

You may not hunt doves in state park or recreation areas, except that portion of Angostura State Recreation Area lying west of the dam

Migratory Bird Certification: All mourning dove hunters must complete and **purchase the South Dakota Migratory Bird Certification**

Cottontail rabbit season opened September 1.

Daily limit of 10, possession of 30.

Tree squirrel season opened September 1.

Daily limit of 5, possession of 15.

Crow season opened September 1.

Unlimited daily and possession limits.

## *Hyde/Hand Counties*

*Cory Flor*



### **Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below***

Lots of small bass are being caught at Lake Louise but not much for size. Anglers have also been catching lots of bass and perch at Jones Lake. They are having the best luck pitching jigs tipped with crawlers.



### **Hunting Report:**

Goose hunters have been having some success, they have done better in the northeast part of Hand Co. Dove hunters have been doing fine, if you find the doves, you find a lot of them.

## *Hughes County*

*John Murphy*



### **Fishing Report:**

**No Report**



### **Hunting Report:**

Dove hunting is fair, still some in the area after the cold front. Scouting is a necessity now. Hunters are reminded they need to use still shot on certain public lands and to check the hunting handbook for regulations. Youth deer season opened on September 13<sup>th</sup> so take a youth hunting.

## *Jones County*

*Dan Dobesh*



**Fishing Report:** See Missouri River Report below  
No Report



### **Hunting Report:**

No Report

## *Lyman County*

*Dan Dobesh*



**Fishing Report:** See Missouri River Report below

No Report



### **Hunting Report:**

No Report

## *Potter County*



**Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below:**

Potts Dam – No Fishing Activity,  
Lake Hurley –Anglers are catching small perch and bullheads  
Simon Dam – No Fishing Activity.



**Hunting Report:**

Dove – Hunters are finding fair numbers of doves in Potter county and Walworth County

Goose – Hunting is better in the northeast corner of Potter county around the Tolstoy area.  
Several small lakes and sloughs have been holding resident geese.

**Stanley County**  
Josh Thompson



**Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.**

Fishermen are reminded that the daily limit for walleye is 4, of which only 1 of those 4 walleye may be 20 inches or longer.

The minimum length limit for walleye caught on Lake Sharpe is 15 inches.

**Twin Dams** – Little fishing activity observed.

**Hayes Lake** – Little fishing activity observed.

**Ft. Pierre Nat. Grasslands** – Fishermen have been having some luck catching perch lately.

**Lake Oahe** – The Cheyenne River and North Oahe seem to be the places to be right now. We are hearing reports of hot fishing activity up in those areas.

**Lake Sharpe** – Slow fishing activity. Catfish bite has been pretty good at the mouth of the Bad River and in the tailraces.



**Hunting Report:**

The Prairie Chicken, Gray Partridge, Chukar, & Grouse Hunting Season starts this coming Saturday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Youth Waterfowl Season is also open this weekend from September 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> statewide.

**Dove** – Still a few doves hanging around the area. There is still time to go out and find some birds.

For any further information, Game, Fish & Parks hunting and fishing handbooks are available at local licensing agents; or you can visit the SD Game, Fish & Parks website at [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov).

## **Sully County**

Andy Schmahl



**Fishing Report:** See Missouri River Report below.

Cottonwood Lake: Fishing has been VERY slow at Cottonwood Lake in Sully County.

Lake Oahe: Fishing has been pretty tough for walleyes on Lake Oahe since early July. Most fisherman are seeing very little success.



**Hunting Report:**

Dove Hunting: Dove numbers in Sully County seem pretty good all over. Certain places are absolutely loaded with doves.

Canada Goose Hunting: Canada Goose numbers in eastern Sully County are not very good due to a lack of water throughout the summer. Scouting will be very important for goose hunting success.

## **Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties**

Matt Hill



**Fishing Report:** See Missouri River Report below

No Report



**Hunting Report:**

No Report

## **Walworth County**

Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman



**Fishing Report:** See Missouri River report below

Small lakes have seen little use with some success catching small perch and bullheads.



## Hunting Report:

Good numbers of doves and geese in the area.

## Missouri River report:

### *Lake Oahe and Lake Sharpe*

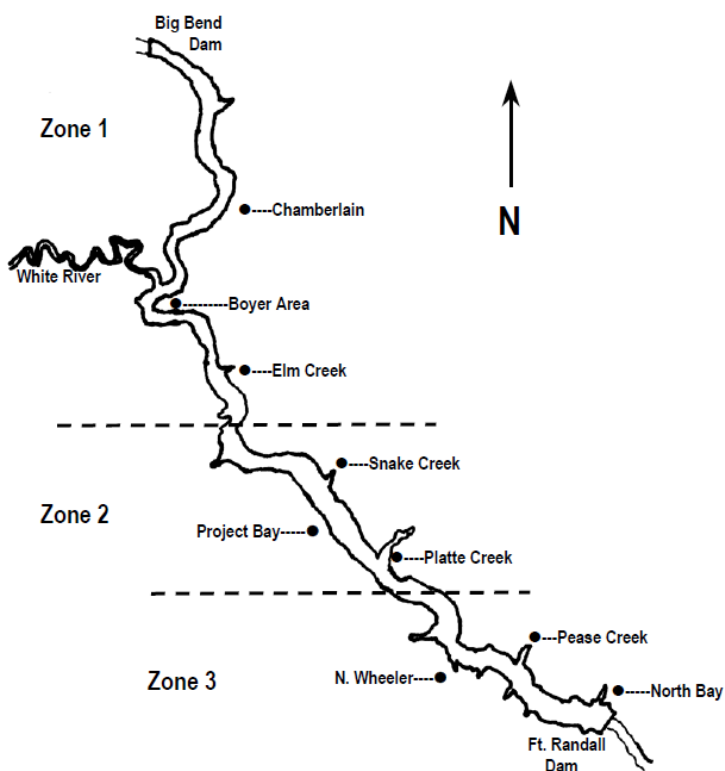
*Kyle Potter*

#### **Lake Oahe**

No Report

#### **Lake Sharpe**

No Report



### *Lake Francis Case*

*Rachel Tribble*

Zone 1 – The walleye bite has been tough throughout the upper third of the reservoir. Anglers are catching some smaller fish, and very few limits are being brought in. The walleye bite is slightly better along the bluffs at Big Bend Dam, with some 14 -16 inch walleyes being kept.

Zone 2 – The walleye bite has slowed down quite a bit around Platte and Snake Creeks. A few anglers are still catching some larger walleyes over the trees, but most walleyes being kept are 13-16 inches. Anglers are also catching a fair amount a smallmouth bass in these areas.



Zone 3 – The walleye bite in the lower part of the reservoir has picked up recently. Many anglers are catching their limit of walleyes with a few smaller ones being caught as well.

The walleye regulations changed July 1. There is no minimum length limit on walleyes in July and August. However, the one walleye over 20 inches per day is still in effect.